JOHN AND RACHEL WILSON HOLFELTZ



John Holfeltz, born October 15, 1829, at Altivies Lorraine, France. Son of Philip Holfeltz and Katherine Rechelin Holfeltz. Married Rachel Wilson June 7, 1860, Salt Lake City. Died October 23, 1903, Midway.

Rachel Wilson, daughter of Thomas Wilson and Jane Ellis Wilson. Born February 6, 1842, Castle Hill, Ayershire, Scotland. Died April 1923, Midway.

In June of 1866, John and Rachel had their endowments in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City. They lived in Salt Lake for some time then moved to Midway in

November 1865. They lived and reared their family in a little home built on the farm that John Joost now owns.

In his young life Mr. Holfeltz spent a lot of time in the gold mines at Carson City, Nevada, and California. He came back to Utah at the time Johnston's army came to Utah.

He was converted to the Mormon faith by reading a German *Book of Mormon* and other Church books, using sage brush fires at night to read by, on an island in Great Salt Lake. His schooling commenced in Germany, although his people were French. He was ordained an Elder in the LDS Church by Charles Harper in 1856. He was active in the Church until his death. He was a part-time farmer, chicken raiser, but a tanner by trade. He used to work in the tanner shop in Heber. He died at Midway, of a heart attack. He was a loving father and husband. He was respected by all who knew him.

Rachel had a hard time as a young woman, for her father died when she was nine years old. She had to go to work in a factory until she was eleven years old. They left Scotland and came to Utah. She walked most of the way across the plains. Her shoes wore out long before they arrived here, but she was so happy at the thought of coming to Zion that she had no time to feel badly about her shoes being worn out. They laughed and danced, sang songs when they stopped to rest.

She passed through the grasshopper and cricket famine. There was no bread for as long as six months at a time. They dug artichokes and sego bulbs to eat. When she was fifteen years old she went to live with the Charles Borne family, working for her board and room. Mr. Borne did pay for her schooling while she lived with them. Later she went home to her mother and as a family they were sent to the southern part of the state. Shortly after they returned to Salt Lake City she met John Holfeltz and at eighteen years old she was married to him. She paid fifty cents a yard for lawn to make her wedding dress. She worked four weeks for the money. They lived in Salt Lake City where four of their children were born. They then moved to Midway, where they lived until their deaths.

Rachel was called as president of the Young Womens Mutual December 7, 1890. She was president of the Primary, a Sunday School teacher, and was a teacher in Relief Society for some 50 years until her death.

She was a devoted wife and mother, loved and respected by her family and many friends. She reared three grandchildren, David, Samuel and Belle Holfeltz.

Children of John and Rachel were:

John Holfeltz, married Isabell Hair.

Ellis Jane Holfeltz, married Luke E. Provost

Rachel Holfeltz, married Wilford Van Wagener

Mary A. Holfeltz, died

Elizabeth C. Holfeltz, married John Hair

George W. Holfeltz, married Berthina Christenson

Janett Holfeltz, married John O'Driscoll

James T. Holfeltz, married Emma Henry.

